CLAIMS:

1.   A method for processing an image containing at least a portion of a head of a human in a video phone system, comprising:
estimating an orientation of said head in said image using a pattern recognition technique;
computing a three dimensional model of a face surface of said human using a computer vision technique; and
adjusting an orientation of said three dimensional face surface model to provide a frontal view.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said computing step further comprises the step of using a symmetric face assumption to obtain a complete three dimensional face surface model for a profile view.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said computing step further comprises the step of employing a structure from motion technique to obtain said three dimensional face surface model.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said estimating step applies a classification technique.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein said computing step generates a morphable three dimensional model.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of mapping said three dimensional face surface model having an adjusted orientation to a two dimensional space.

7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting said adjusted image to a remote user.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting said adjusted image to a local user.

9.   An image processor for use in a video phone system, comprising:

a memory for storing an image containing at least a portion of a head of a human; and

a head pose corrector that (i) estimates an orientation of said head in said image using a pattern recognition technique; (ii) computes a three dimensional model of a face surface of said human using a computer vision technique; and (iii) adjusts an orientation of said three dimensional face surface model to provide a frontal view.

10.   The image processor of claim 9, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to use a symmetric face assumption to obtain a complete three dimensional face surface model for a profile view.

11.   The image processor of claim 9, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to employ a structure from motion technique to obtain said three dimensional face surface model.

12.   The image processor of claim 9, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to apply a classification technique to obtain said head orientation.

13.   The image processor of claim 9, wherein said three dimensional face surface model is a morphable three dimensional model.

14.   The image processor of claim 9, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to map said three dimensional face surface model having an adjusted orientation to a two dimensional modified image.

15.   The image processor of claim 14, wherein said two dimensional modified image is transmitted to a remote user.

16.   The image processor of claim 14, wherein said two dimensional modified image is presented to a local user.

17.   A video phone system, comprising:

a memory for storing an image containing at least a portion of a head of a human; and

a head pose corrector that (i) estimates an orientation of said head in said image using a pattern recognition technique; (ii) computes a three dimensional model of a face surface of said human using a computer vision technique; and (iii) adjusts an orientation of said three dimensional face surface model to provide a frontal view.

18.   The video phone system of claim 17, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to use a symmetric face assumption to obtain a complete three dimensional face surface model for a profile view.

19.   The video phone system of claim 17, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to employ a structure from motion technique to obtain said three dimensional face surface model.

20.   The video phone system of claim 17, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to apply a classification technique to obtain said head orientation.

21.   The video phone system of claim 17, wherein said head pose corrector is further configured to map said three dimensional face surface model having an adjusted orientation to a two dimensional modified image.

22.   The video phone system of claim 21, wherein said two dimensional modified image is transmitted to a remote user.

23.   The video phone system of claim 21, wherein said two dimensional modified image is presented to a local user.